

CLAIMS

1. A character recognition system, comprising:
 - an optical character reader system for collecting character data by electro-optically scanning printed characters;
 - a conversion system for converting the character data to a Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) format; and
 - a recognition engine for interpreting the converted character data using a MICR algorithm.
2. The character recognition system of claim 1, wherein the optical character reader system scans at a pel density in a range of approximately 200 to 600 dpi.
3. The character recognition system of claim 1, wherein the character data is stored in a grey scale image format.
4. The character recognition system of claim 3, wherein the conversion system scales the character data to a pel density associated with a multigap MICR read head.
5. The character recognition system of claim 3, wherein the conversion system scales the character data to approximately 0.33 millimeters/pixel in a horizontal dimension and 0.43 millimeters/pixel in a vertical dimension.

1 6. The character recognition system of claim 3, wherein the conversion system converts
2 the grey scale image format to a black and white image format.

1 7. The character recognition system of claim 1, wherein the printed characters are printed
2 in an E13B font.

1 8. A method for performing character recognition, comprising:
 2 collecting character data by electro-optically scanning printed characters;
 3 converting the character data to a Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR)
 4 format; and
 5 interpreting the converted character data using a MICR algorithm.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the character data is scanned at a pel density in a
 2 range of approximately 200 to 600 dpi.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the collection step stores the character data in a grey
 2 scale image format.

1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the converting step scales the character data to a pel
 2 density associated with a multigap MICR read head.

1 12. The method of claim 8, wherein the converting step scales the character data to
 2 approximately 0.33 millimeters/pixel in a horizontal dimension and 0.43
 3 millimeters/pixel in a vertical dimension.

1 13. The method of claim 10, wherein the converting step converts the grey scale image
 2 format to a black and white image format.

1 14. The method of claim 8, wherein the printed characters are printed in an E13B font.

1 15. A program product stored on a recordable medium for performing character
2 recognition, comprising:

3 means for accessing character data collected by an electro-optical scanning
4 system;

5 means for converting the character data to a Magnetic Ink Character Recognition
6 (MICR) format; and

7 means for interpreting the converted character data using a MICR algorithm.

1 16. The program product of claim 15, wherein the character data comprises a pel density
2 in a range of approximately 200 to 600 dpi.

1 17. The program product of claim 15, wherein the converting means scales the character
2 data to a pel density associated with a multigap MICR read head.

1 18. The program product of claim 15, wherein the converting means scales the character
2 data to approximately 0.33 millimeters/pixel in a horizontal dimension and 0.43
3 millimeters/pixel in a vertical dimension.

1 19. The program product of claim 15, wherein the converting means converts a grey
2 scale image format to a black and white image format.

1 20. The program product of claim 15, wherein the character data collected by the electro-
2 optical scanning system comprises characters printed in an E13B font.

1 21. A multi-voting character recognition engine for analyzing an inputted set of printed
2 characters, comprising:

3 a plurality of character recognition systems, wherein each character recognition
4 system independently analyzes the inputted set of printed characters, and wherein one of
5 the character recognition systems includes:

6 an optical character reader system for collecting character data by electro-
7 optically scanning printed characters;

8 a conversion system for converting the character data to a Magnetic Ink
9 Character Recognition (MICR) format; and

10 a recognition engine for interpreting the converted character data using a
11 MICR algorithm; and

12 a voting system for combining results from each of the plurality of character
13 recognition systems and determining a recognized set of characters.

1 22. The multi-voting character recognition engine of claim 21, wherein the inputted set
2 of printed characters are printed in an E13B font.